

REMARKS

A complete listing of all of the claims presented with applicant's amendment filed on June 6, 2003, is submitted herewith, and the claims are now thought to be in compliance with the voluntary revised amendment practice guidelines.

Applicant further incorporates herein the remarks presented in the amendment filed on June 6, 2003 as follows.

The claims now in this case for consideration are claims 2-12, 14, 16, 17, 19, 21, 22 and newly written independent claims 23-25 presented in lieu of canceled claims 1, 18 and 20, respectively.

Claims 1 through 16 and 21 have been rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. As will be noted, newly written claim 23 has been substituted for original claim 1, and clearly claim 23 is not indefinite because it specifically recites the structure necessary to provide two modes of operation, specifically the switch for switching the means to modify the amplitude of current flowing in the drive coil in and out of operation. All of the claims dependent on claim 23, namely, claims 2 through 12, 14 and 16, are allowable for the same reasons, plus the fact that these dependent claims are even more specific as to the structural recitation. It will be noted that claims 13 and 15 have now been canceled.

Claim 17 has been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by the Sikora reference. Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested for the following reasons. First of all, reliance on Sikora is thought to be improper since this reference has nothing whatsoever to do with a coating thickness measuring instrument, but rather relates to a process and apparatus for determining the position of an elongated object with respect to a reference axis, and hence is thought to be nonanalogous art. In addition, claim 17 has now

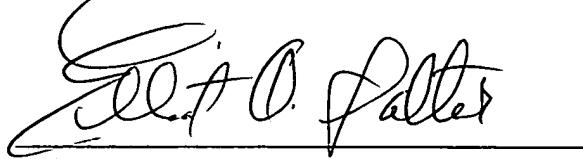
been amended to specifically recite the probe tip shown at 1d in Fig. 2 of the drawings and specifically discussed in the specification at page 5, line 13. Since Sikora discloses no probe tip or the equivalent thereof, it is thought that claim 17, as now amended, structurally defines over Sikora, even if Sikora were deemed to be analogous art, which is not thought to be the case. For these reasons, the allowance of claim 17 is thought to be in order and is courteously solicited.

Original claims 18 through 20 and 22 were indicated as being allowable subject to being rewritten in independent form. In response to this, original claim 18 has now been canceled and has been rewritten as independent claim 24, so this claim is clearly now allowable. Claim 19 has been amended to depend from claim 24, and accordingly this claim is also allowable. Claim 20 has been canceled and has been rewritten as independent claim 25, and since claim 25 is actually original claim 20 rewritten in independent form, this claim is also clearly allowable. Claim 21 is no longer indefinite in that it now depends from claim 25, which specifically recites "the error amplifier". Thus, amended claim 21 is now allowable, along with claim 22 which depends from allowed claim 24.

In view of the foregoing, it is thought that this application is now ready for issue, and such action is courteously solicited.

PTO is authorized to charge any additional fees incurred as a result of the filing hereof or credit any overpayment to our account #19-0120.

Respectfully submitted,



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